

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of the subject application as amended herein is requested.

Claims 1, 3, 15, 17, 28, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Krampfl (U.S. Pat. No. Appl. 2003/0116402, granted as U.S. Pat. No. 6,814,215). Claims 1, 2, 15, 16, 28, 29, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Michel (FR 2663309 A1). Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Michel in view of Steeber (U.S. Pat. No. 5,601,180). Claims 18-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Michel in view of Hubbell (U.S. Pat. No. 2,523,829). Claims 22, 25 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Michel in view of Weeks (U.S. Pat. No. 4,475,648). Claim 23 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Michel in view of both Weeks and Steeber. Claims 6, 24 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Michel in view of either Weeks or Steeber further in view of Kasai (U.S. Pat. No. 4,704, 772).

The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Briefly as defined in Claim 1, the present invention pertains to a conveyor. The conveyor is primarily intended for use in the food industry, but it not limited thereto. The conveyor is an improvement over prior art because it is formed using a single sheet of metal and requires substantially no welding or use of threaded fasteners. This improvement substantially eliminates small crevices in the structure where bacteria can build up and be difficult to remove. In addition to cutting down bacteria, the single sheet construction decreases the cost of cleaning the conveyor.

Claims 1, 3, 15, 17, 28, and 30 are not anticipated by Krampfl. Krampfl discloses only a supporting leg system and not the actual conveyor. The present invention involves construction of the belt platform of substantially a single sheet. In addition, Krampfl does not disclose the

construction of a conveyer without welding. Specifically paragraphs 26, 29 and 30 of KrampI all involve welding in the construction of said support structure. Further, the front portion of figure 2, element 10 in KrampI is substantially horizontal. Claim 15 requires that substantially all of the exposed surfaces are inclined in use. For those reasons, the present invention is not anticipated by KrampI.

Claims 1, 2, 15, 16, 28, 29, and 30 are not anticipated by Michel. Michel does not disclose a conveyor constructed substantially of one sheet with no welds or threaded fasteners. In Michel, figure 4, elements 18, 20 and 26 are all separate parts which make up the conveyer. And in the Office action dated April 20, 2006 on page 4 at paragraph 8, the Examiner points out that Michel "does not expressly disclose... retaining means being free from welds, threaded fasteners, and surfaces which are horizontal in use." The afore-mentioned claims all include a limitation that the invention involves a conveyer where the entire structure is made from substantially one sheet of metal. Therefore, claims 1, 2, 15, 16, 28, 29, and 30 are not anticipated by Michel.

For the above-mentioned reasons, the three independent claims 1, 15 and 28 are patentable. Since, the remaining claims are all dependent claims based upon the independent claims, they are patentable as well.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is now in condition for allowance.

Applicant hereby states that by these amendments made hereinabove, no new matter is being added to the subject application.

Applicant respectfully requests entry into the record of the above amendments.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): Patent Application Fee Determination Record
Multiple Dependent Claim Fee Calculation Sheet

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